

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

A1 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

feature extracting means for extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means via the network ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

storing means connected to a network for storing electronic information; feature extracting means for extracting a feature of the electronic information stored in the storing means;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction of a client; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

storing means connected to a network for storing electronic information;

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feature extracting means for extracting a feature of the electronic information stored in the storing means;

instructing and operating means for instructing the feature of the electronic information;

deciding means for deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from the feature extracted by the feature extracting means based on an instruction from the instructing and operating means; and

deleting means for deleting from the storing means ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information that is decided to be deleted by the deciding means.

4. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a character string.

5. (Original) The electronic information management according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising an image.

6. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides whether the electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature comprising a similar image.

7. (Original) The electronic information management server according to claim 1, wherein the deciding means decides that other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also deleted together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management server for classification and retrieval of documents, comprising:

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temporarily storing means for temporarily storing electronic information sent via a network; and

deleting means for deleting the unnecessary electronic information stored in the temporarily storing means at a predetermined timing.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic information management server according to claim 8, wherein the deleting means deletes the unnecessary electronic information from the temporarily storing means after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

10. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management client for classification and retrieval of documents that instructs deletion of unnecessary electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network, comprising:

instructing and operating means for instructing a feature of the unnecessary electronic information to be deleted.

11. (Original) The electronic information management client according to claim 10, further comprising inputting means for inputting the feature and transferring it to the instructing and operating means.

12. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting from the storing means via the network the unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

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13. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

storing predetermined electronic information;

extracting a feature of the stored electronic information;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting the unnecessary electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

14. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising a character string instructed by the client.

15. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided based on a feature comprising an image instructed by the client.

16. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein whether the electronic information is to be deleted is decided by obtaining a feature comprising an image instructed by the client based on image features having a similar image of the image.

17. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 12, wherein other electronic information related to specific electronic information is also decided as a deletion object together with the specific electronic information decided to be deleted based on the feature.

18. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing electronic information sent from a network; and

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deleting the unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information at a predetermined timing.

19. (Currently Amended) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information is deleted after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

20. (Currently Amended) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the unnecessary temporarily stored electronic information is deleted based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

21. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 18, wherein the temporarily stored electronic information is transferred based on an instruction from a sender of the electronic information.

22. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, when electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of the electronic information to be deleted; and
giving a deletion execution instruction to the unnecessary electronic information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the input feature.

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting the unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing meansmeans, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

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24. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

inputting a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment;

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment; and

deleting the unnecessary transferred electronic information from the storing means.

25. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a deletion timing of the electronic information stored in the temporary storage server is instructed by the terminal equipment.

26. (Original) The electronic information management method according to claim 24, wherein a transfer of electronic information stored in the temporary storage server to the terminal equipment is instructed by the terminal equipment.

27. (Currently Amended) An electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

deleting unnecessary electronic information that is extracted as the deletion object from the storing meansmeans, according to an instruction from the terminal equipment.

28. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting a feature of electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network;

deciding whether the electronic information is to be deleted from a previously extracted feature based on an instruction from a client; and

deleting from the storing means via a network ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information that is decided to be deleted.

29. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, the method comprising the steps of:

storing electronic information sent via a network in temporary storing means; and

deleting ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information stored in the temporary storing means at a predetermined timing.

30. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, when electronic information stored in storing means connected to a network is deleted, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a feature of the electronic information to be deleted; and

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accepting a deletion execution instruction for ~~the unnecessary~~ electronic information that is to be deleted and extracted from the storing means according to the accepted feature.

31. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, recording a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an electronic information management method for classifying and retrieving documents, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of a feature of electronic information from terminal equipment and extracting information to be deleted from the electronic information stored in storing means of the terminal equipment; and

transferring the electronic information extracted as the deletion object from the storing means to a temporary storage server via a network according to an instruction from the terminal equipment and deleting ~~the unnecessary~~ transferred electronic information from the storing means.